

Current Economic Programs Printed Survey Results: by the *Housing Starts* Statistics Users Respondent Base

U.S. Census Bureau
Current Economic Statistics User Survey

OMB CQM-26 (Rev.5/5/98)

I. DATA CONTENT

Your answers identifying the survey data you use will help us understand our users' patterns of data use.

1. Which Current Economic Statistics from the Census Bureau do you use? (Mark all that apply.)

(1) Monthly

0.2%;	1	None
54.9%;	235	Retail Sales
34.1%;	146	Wholesale Trade
44.2%;	189	Manufacturing/Trade Inventory/Sales
100.0%;	428	Housing Starts
68.7%;	294	Building Permits
67.1%;	287	New Home Sales
54.7%;	234	Value of New Construction Put in Place
43.9%;	188	Housing Completions
33.6%;	144	Expenditures for Residential Improvements
44.9%;	192	New Residential Construction
22.4%;	96	New Mobile Home Placements
36.4%;	156	Monthly Imports and Exports
36.0%;	154	Current Industrial Reports
42.8%;	183	Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, Orders

Replies 428; Forms 428

(2) Quarterly

50.0%;	81	Quarterly Financial Report
79.6%;	129	Current Industrial Reports
5.6%;	9	Federal Assistance Awards Data System
14.2%;	23	Quarterly Tax Survey
6.2%;	10	Quarterly Public Employee Retirement

Replies 162; Forms 428

(3) Annual

46.8%;	168	Annual Retail Trade
35.4%;	127	Annual (Wholesale) Trade
14.8%;	53	Annual Survey of Communications
20.1%;	72	Transportation Annual Survey
17.8%;	64	Service Annual Survey
45.7%;	164	County Business Patterns

25.1%;	90	ZIP Code Business Patterns
32.3%;	116	Statistics of U.S. Businesses
42.6%;	153	Characteristics of New Housing
55.4%;	199	Annual Building Permits
38.2%;	137	New Residential Construction in Selected Metropolitan Areas
23.4%;	84	Annual Capital Expenditures
53.5%;	192	Annual Survey of Manufactures
42.6%;	153	Current Industrial Reports
12.5%;	45	Research and Development Survey
23.7%;	85	Plant Capacity Utilization
7.0%;	25	Education Finance Survey
11.1%;	40	State Tax Collection Survey
4.2%;	15	Annual Public Employee Retirement
8.4%;	30	Annual Survey of Public Employment
9.2%;	33	Consolidated Federal Funds Report
18.4%;	66	State Government Finances
34.0%;	122	Annual Imports and Exports

Replies 359; Forms 428

II. DATA DELIVERY

The Census Bureau is considering use of the Internet as the primary method of data delivery. By completing the following questions, you will help us retain the most essential delivery formats and design the best possible data delivery service.

(4) 2. How do you receive current economic data now? (Mark all that apply.)

87.1%;	371	Printed Publications	10.3%;	44	Direct (E-mail) delivery
71.1%;	303	World Wide Web (Internet)	2.1%;	9	Regular mail
28.2%;	120	CD-ROMs	0.5%;	2	hard copy computer run
19.5%;	83	Diskettes	7.7%;	33	Other
14.1%;	60	FAX			

Replies 426; Forms 428

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- EBB (of Stat-USA) Phone calls
 - Newspaper
 - Economic Bulletin Board
 - from others in the organization we use ftp site extensively.
 - News media
 - Commerce Department Economic Bulletin Board
 - News Services such as Bridge.
 - Library
 - tape (CPB)
 - Electronic "Bulletin Boards"
 - Check values by telephone
 - also use microfiche in some cases.
 - time-share vendor (private)
 - Bulletin Board Commerce Dept.
 - Economic Bulletin Board-Commerce Dept.
 - Analytics
 - News Services-Market News.
 - DRI DATABASE
 - Download from Bulletin Board.3
 - Individual sources using census bureau data
 - sec,Secondary Vendor (R

- Newswires
- Intermediate Data Vendor.3,4,6,
- Fax from Japanese media
- Stat-USA
- Tape, Cartridge
- STAT-Usa Bulletin Board
- Overnight Delivery of NIA data
- CD Rom & Publications in Library
- Print out
- By phone to construction statistics
- Subscribe to America Statistic Index on Microfiche
- News Recall Services-i.e. Dow Jones Reuters
- STAT-USA+WEFA Group

(5) 3. What format do you PREFER when downloading data for further manipulation? (Mark all that apply.)

69.0%;	276	Spreadsheet (e.g., wkl, xls, etc...)
27.2%;	109	Database (e.g., dbf, mdb, etc...)
24.0%;	96	ASCII delimited
15.8%;	63	Retrieve from print or screen and enter manually
15.8%;	63	ASCII flat files
14.5%;	58	Do not manipulate data
3.0%;	12	Other

Replies 400; Forms 428

- download from www.Census.gov
- TSO files
- Charts and Trends
- Text files: txt. or PRN
- Excel
- CD-Rom
- So we can manipulate.
- Don't know
- PDF formats were the best
- Print from Windows Menu.
- Word Document
- SAS data sets

4. What capabilities do you want on the Census Internet site? (For each line, indicate the degree of your preferences, from 5 [high] to 1 [low].)

(6) a. Direct (E-mail) delivery:

45.3%;	169	5	17.7%;	66	3	9.4%;	35	1
14.2%;	53	4	7.2%;	27	2	6.2%;	23	Don't know

Replies 373; Forms 428

(7) b. E-mail notification:

44.5%;	162	5	18.4%;	67	3	9.1%;	33	1
14.3%;	52	4	7.7%;	28	2	6.0%;	22	Don't know

Replies 364; Forms 428

(8)	c. Retrieve/display to screen:					
53.1%; 189 5		14.0%; 50 3		5.3%; 19 1		
19.1%; 68 4		2.2%; 8 2		6.2%; 22 Don't know		
Replies 356; Forms 428						
(9)	d. Search:					
65.4%; 249 5		12.3%; 47 3		2.1%; 8 1		
16.5%; 63 4		1.0%; 4 2		2.6%; 10 Don't know		
Replies 381; Forms 428						
(10)	e. Download complete data sets:					
65.1%; 246 5		9.3%; 35 3		2.9%; 11 1		
15.6%; 59 4		3.7%; 14 2		3.4%; 13 Don't know		
Replies 378; Forms 428						
(11)	f. Download selected data:					
72.4%; 281 5		5.7%; 22 3		1.0%; 4 1		
15.7%; 61 4		2.8%; 11 2		2.3%; 9 Don't know		
Replies 388; Forms 428						
(12)	g. Software help/tutorials:					
18.3%; 64 5		26.9%; 94 3		14.0%; 49 1		
17.5%; 61 4		17.5%; 61 2		5.7%; 20 Don't know		
Replies 349; Forms 428						
(13)	h. Publication-quality printing:					
26.8%; 96 5		20.1%; 72 3		16.5%; 59 1		
17.6%; 63 4		14.8%; 53 2		4.2%; 15 Don't know		
Replies 358; Forms 428						
(14)	i. Charts and graphs:					
28.9%; 107 5		19.2%; 71 3		15.1%; 56 1		
18.4%; 68 4		14.9%; 55 2		3.5%; 13 Don't know		
Replies 370; Forms 428						
(15)	j. Geographic maps:					
27.2%; 97 5		16.6%; 59 3		15.4%; 55 1		
21.1%; 75 4		12.9%; 46 2		6.7%; 24 Don't know		
Replies 356; Forms 428						

(16) k. Other, please specify:

78.3%;	18	electronic bulletin board	21.7%;	5	Other
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Replies 23; Forms 428

- Publications like QFR to be in spreadsheet format or mdb for easy data manipulation after downloading.
 - Dowlad selected data set according to state, regions, & metro areas
 - ACROBAT FILES, which you may include in item h.
 - Don't know if electronic bulletin board was used
 - Update full report at release time
-

(17) l. Electronic Bulletin Board (To collect write-ins)

50.0%;	1	5	0.0%;	0	3	0.0%;	0	1
0.0%;	0	4	50.0%;	1	2	0.0%;	0	Don't know

Replies 2; Forms 428

III. DATA USAGE

Your answers describing how you use the data will help us design the most effective Current Economic Statistics retrieval tool.

(18) 5. Do you combine/compare/merge data from more than one source listed in Question 1?

27.3%;	111	No	72.7%;	296	Yes
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Replies 407; Forms 428

(19) 6. What time periods do you consider when using these data? (Mark X all that apply.)

61.1%;	253	5+ years	45.2%;	187	trends up to 1 year
60.1%;	249	trends up to 5 years	0.0%;	0	Other
46.4%;	192	latest 1 or 2 periods			

Replies 414; Forms 428

(20) 7. How do you use the data? (Mark all that apply.)

47.7%;	196	Create value-added products/services
34.5%;	142	Inform marketing decisions
33.8%;	139	Perform patron/client inquiries
23.1%;	95	Inform investment decisions
22.6%;	93	Republish in newspaper/journal
17.8%;	73	Store reports/printouts for archival purposes
8.3%;	34	Locate new sites
0.5%;	2	Other

Replies 411; Forms 428

- Store data in database.

(21) 8. What explanatory information do you consult when using these data? (Mark all that apply.)

70.7%; 285 Definition of terms
52.9%; 213 Narrative text describing survey results
51.6%; 208 Sampling and estimation methodology
37.2%; 150 Survey design
14.1%; 57 None
1.7%; 7 Other

Replies 403; Forms 428

- Explanations of data changes/revisions
 - Direct contact with Census analysts
 - research
 - Comparisons to earlier surveys and/or similar data from other agencies--e.g. census to BEA in one estimates.
 - Regression analysis
 - Background papers, Journal Articles
 - Econometrics Analysis
-

(22) 9. Do you have any pressing data or information needs that are not currently being met?

- We are very much interested in unadjusted counterparts of tables 7 & 8 of the FT900 release being made available on internet on the day of release. Publications like QFR also need to be made available in spreadsheet or mdb for us to further manipulate data.
- No. Increasingly more and more data sets are becoming available electronically-which makes our work easier by eliminating manual inputting of data.
- Regional retail sales estimates (cancelled after 1996)
- More local info. (PMSA at least)
- Non-residential building permit data.
- State/MSA non-residential construction data!
- Find it difficult to get info a local area ie. N.E., Urban, but not specific such as New York. Also, like annual building Permits in greater detail to states or county level.
- Retail Trade Monthly - Regional Data Survey - Blue Pages, Building Permits - Non-Resident & Additions.
- Print publications no longer available, yet there is no notice that the print publication will no longer exist. Impossible to find the exact publication on the Internet so clients can compare and update printed data. Current information available but how long will older information remain available?
- I do not receive all the requests all the time.
- Retail sales for Central Business Districts; zip code retail sales, manufacturers, wholesale, etc; zip code housing data including rent and home prices; SIC business fro sip codes.
- If I request "personal incom 1989-1992 monthly", the database would show me what I requested data.
- Capital Outlays Quarterly By Industry
- Apartment (Multi-Family) Statistics.
- Information on nonresidential construction.
- Need more monthly physical output dat for manufacturing.
- Data on residential construction; alterations, renovations and conversions; and county level mobile home shipments.
- Imports and Exports by SIC code; 3 or 4 digit. Move industry detail in M3 report.
- Non-residential building permits, offices, retail industrial building etc.
- Monthly retail sales were previously available by U.S. region! We need this!
- No.
- New remodeling dat from American Housing Survey.
- Nonresidential Construction Dollars by STATE Highway Expenditures by STATE dat has to be timely.
- MCD Business Patterns, Massachusetts is doing away with county government, MCD income

- estimates.
- Timely release of data in an easy-to-access format (ie: XLS, 123, etc.) with revisions and option of pulling complete time series.
- Non-residential building permits--number by type of building.
- The availability of Residential and Commercial Building Permit Data.
- Accurate and timely international statistics on the air conditioning, refrigeration and heating industry.
- I'd love to see employment data by SIC based on place of residence. Also wish for reconciliation between RIMS, SIC, & NAICS.
- Int'l trade data on internet are inadequate. Only press releases are there. When data are revised, if data are not in the press release, there is no way to get the revisions (ex: monthly data from exhibits 6&7 of FT900).
- Monthly historical trade data.
- Number of Mobile Homes & Value of, by state, on a monthly basis. (Currently only published annually) -- Also, by county, if possible.
- 1) Monthly building permits by stats. 2) Retail sales by states & MSA's.
- No.
- We really just want to get the monthly statistics listed in Question #1 timely-- the day they are released/announced to other new agencies.
- Better capital expenditure data and Better motor vehicle data.
- More timely data.
- Data on non-residential construction.
- Non-residential building permits data nad value of new non-residential construction part in place.
- Any commercial construction activity-new or improvements
- Monthly trade data based on export location.
- Local U.S. MSA & county data.
- Statistics on new residential construction for MSA's in more locations (e.g. all top MSA's)
- 1) NAICS to harmonized code concordance. 2) Timely plant capacity utilization at greatest detail level possible. 3) Windows version import data/monthly annual easy to use historical with full detail. 4) New Home sales (without land).
- Yes--Commercial building permits--Bring them back now!!!
- Resume geographic estimates of retail sales.
- YES! Bring back non-residential state/local permits authorized! This was a severe loss for interpreting local economic trends. Also, more geographic detail, more frequently.
- Wish you were more current...
- Would like to have detailed Boiling permit data on line. Would really like to know which census tracts correspond to zip codes (and counties).
- Commercial Construction Permit Activity
- Some data are not historical enough. Most of the time, I need data as far back as 20-30 years ago.
- Seasonal Population - estimates. More information on affordable housing-market.
- State, county & local permit date for nonresidential construction. Use to get this.
- greater back files of data
- Monthly Retail Sales for U.S. Metropolitan Areas.
- BLS has great site. Well organized. Need to make it easy to find seasonal factors and benchwork.
- Organic Chemicals Annual was very useful before it was discontinued. We would like annual production, consumption figures made available again.
- current retail sales
- More frequent substate mtg. stats (annual survey is state wide only)
- More detailed annual (quarterly) production data on high technologies (electronics).
- Disclosure rules limit reporting in CIR report.
- I need quarter-by-quarter growth figures in areas such as sales, inventories, GOP, construction,etc.
- Regional retail sales (metropolitan area) monthly non-residential building permits by metropolitan area monthly.
- Break-out of services components of GDP.
- Pollution abatement expenditures by SIC
- 1). Employment in types of projects, such as residential construction. 2). Construction productivity measures.
- Commercial & industrial building permit activity!

- Business starts by SIC at the County level.
- I would like housing start data broken down to each state.
- 1). GDP 2). Need to see how prior data releases of components affect quarterly advance.
- Forecast data for construction markets.
- Up to date residential improvements data garage door 1 garage door openers involved in improvements.
- Better categorization of Import/Export information. It is very difficult to determine how much of some of our products were imported or exported.
- Want monthly retail trade by state & MSA back.
- Non-residential Building permits.
- Yes, Non-residential permits and regional retail sales.
- More extensive time series!
- Using CPS-online. The current terret use does not allow for cross-tabs and sub-group data collection.
- Need more detailed annual data for 6 digit SIC codes
- Place and regional economic data sets in relation to population/race trends.
- Better linkage between manufacturing industries and downstream reproducing and distribution. Information pertaining to weights or units with respect to distribution. At processing we measure weights and units. At distribution and are measured. It's discontinuous and you can't measure what the system is doing.
- Geographic data by product class, especially in county business patterns. Totals at the 4-digit industry level aren't detailed enough.
- Expenditures for non-residential construction, especially non-residential reconstruction.
- I would love something like census lookup for building permits and imports & exports.
- Monthly housing inventory by metro area.
- Make data reports easier to print off of the web.
- Average expenditures per residential improvement project for single family homes by region. Average value for residential permits by region.
- Move capital expenditure data--more frequent, more detailed
- Better data on computer industry, especially PC's
- Monthly exports by state's origin of productions by product. (highly disaggregated). Monthly each states' imports by county of origin by product.
- Exports by state of origin-hard to get on CD-ROM, would like crosstab and states by Canadian provinces.
- Housing Starts by State; Retail Sales by State
- Advanced Retail numbers should have "jewelry stores".
- Website is extremely difficult to navigate.
- Non-residential permits!!
- The annual survey of manufacturers needs to be in ASCII or pdf format; as well as pdf. We spend too many hours re-entering the data.
- Crime--not all areas of the U.S. participate in their state uniform crime reports program, so it becomes difficult to make informed decisions.
- Need more timely delivery of C-50 data (Res. Improvements). There is no contemporary measure of remodeling activity.
- Need detailed PPI data.
- Median income and poverty tables are not in spreadsheet form (they once were).
- Would like to see reinstitution of non-residential permit statistics.
- Non-residential new construction and renovation
- We would like to see more economic data and analyses at the state & MSA level.
- Department store sales
- Rent data and vacancy rates.
- Would like mapping for Censtats Local Permit Office boundaries.
- Census of retail trade 1997 merchandise sales report - need ASAP
- Quarterly data, analyzed growth rates for all statistics. Currently, only some of the data is shown as a quarterly growth rate analyzed.
- More Detailed Segmenting
- MSA retail sales

- Monthly service sector sales counterpart data st to retail, wholesale, and manufacturing shipments.
- Permits for remodeling and non-residential construction.
- Population Projections
- The more detailed (down to specific product line) the better.
- The more history, the better.
- Commercial, Industrial, and other non-residential construction put-in-place!
- Immediate posting of data revisions when significant revisions are undertaken.
- Non-residential construction data outside California! Bring it back!
- Data at the metropolitan area level, e.g. retail sales, commercial building permits (office, industrial, retail).
- We have a need for long historical time series and for long-term forecasts.
- More immediate access to most current export & import data.
- Bring back retail sales at metropolitan area level.
- Timely business indicators for MSA's.
- Building permits for non-residents.
- Commercial Building Permits County level on a timely basis.
- Census bureau data by county: retail sales, housing starts, manufacturing stats, imports/exports, new home sales.
- Non-residential building permit data collection should be restored by state and metro area!
- Commercial building permits, Commercial real estates sales.
- As a foreign academic library, we are concerned about cost of access.
- I very much regret the termination of the state and metro area monthly census of retail trade several years ago.
- Estimates of coverage by county for building permits better state and local data.
- Report on productionn of industrial fabrics
- Yes-I need non-residential construction series (commercial, industrial, etc.) on a geographic basis-as used to be done!
- Building Permit data are not as complete as before - Rental vacancy rates & rental would be helpful.

IV. INDUSTRY CLASSIFICATION ISSUES

We will soon begin restructuring the Current Economic Surveys based on the new North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Your answers will help us ensure that these surveys continue to provide the economic information needed by markets, policy makers, and business people. For more information on NAICS, see the Bureau's web site: <http://www.census.gov/NAICS>.

(24) 10. At what levels of detail do you MOST FREQUENTLY USE industry data classified by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)? (Mark all that apply.)

56.1%; 222 4-digit industries (or maximum detail I can get)
 34.1%; 135 Sector totals (SIC division); e.g., Manufacturing or Retail Trade
 31.8%; 126 2-digit major groups
 31.3%; 124 3-digit industry groups
 18.4%; 73 NA (don't use SIC-based data)
 2.8%; 11 Other

Replies 396; Forms 428

- HS
- 7-digit in some cases
- Greater detail when available
- The greatest level available--CIR level. Product level.
- Construction Put in Place Categories
- I don't use this much, but others in the agency do!
- 7-digit
- UP TO 8-DIGIT

- 6-digit product data
- D & B's 2+2 system 8 digits
- Use SIC categories extensively

(25) 11. Were you aware that the SIC system is being replaced by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)?

34.2%; 139 I was unaware of this
 29.3%; 119 I am partially aware, but lack details
 36.5%; 148 I am aware and understand some implications

Replies 406; Forms 428

12. Would you like to receive more information about NAICS?

(26) Yes, please send me - (Mark all that apply)

90.1%; 256 A brochure that explains NAICS	25.7%; 73 Conference announcements
56.7%; 161 NAICS implementation plans	5.3%; 15 Other

Replies 284; Forms 428

- Comparison-SIC VS. NAICS Similar to when SIC definitions change.
 - H.S. Concordances
 - We already have NAICS class. volume.
 - Info on how to reconcile two systems.
 - Contacted by local information office fo Bureau.
 - A manual and numerical list
 - Disaggregate SIC for each sector.
 - We bought the big NIACS book earlier this year--has it been updated?
 - Already know
 - Already have all the information I need.
 - I already have the CD
-

(27) No Thanks -

70.3%; 90 I will check the Census Bureau's web site (www.census.gov/naics)
 29.7%; 38 I don't need more information about NAICS

Replies 128; Forms 428

V. USER PROFILE

Please tell us about yourself so we may serve you better.

(28) 13. Type of organization.

55.1%; 231 Business	3.6%; 15 Media
15.5%; 65 Government	3.1%; 13 Individual
12.9%; 54 Academic/Research	0.5%; 2 Library
6.4%; 27 Association	2.9%; 12 Other

Replies 419; Forms 428

- Information and consulting firm
- Quasi-Gov't
- Consulting

- Manufacturers
- Economic Development
- Building Material Manufacturer
- Labor Union
- Consultant
- Library (University
- University
- Corp. Library
- Regional Planning Commission

(29) 14. Do you work in your organization's library?

22.3%;	91	Yes	77.7%;	317	No
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Replies 408; Forms 428

(30) 15. What is your affiliation with the Census Bureau?

81.1%;	334	None	1.9%;	8	Census Information Center
5.6%;	23	State Data Center	0.5%;	2	State Data Center Affiliate
4.1%;	17	Business/Industry Data Center	6.8%;	28	Other

Replies 412; Forms 428

- SDC Affiliate
- Philadelphia Regional Office
- user of Census data
- Special Sworn Employee
- Associate Stat Data Center
- Federal User
- City Government
- Cooperator in disseminating permits authorized data
- Census Liason
- Derek E. Santos, 700 W. Jefferson, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0032
- Affiliate Agency
- Depository
- Affiliate Data Center
- Fund the CIR-MA35N
- Regional planning agency.
- DOC Staff
- Congress
- Economist
- Data use.
- Heavy user
- GPO Depository
- Local Census Affiliate
- Trade Association
- Client
- Associate Data Center
- Affiliate
- Consumer of housing data
- Federal Depository Library

(35) 20. May we contact you to follow up on this questionnaire?

76.4%; 298 Yes

23.6%; 92 No

Replies 390; Forms 428

(36) Question 21. Remarks:

- It would be nice to have all reports available in spreadsheets format. For any publication reports that contain large tables and data, mdb file format would be an ideal too.
- We greatly appreciate this survey. I'd like to stress one major concern we have: As you move toward complete Internet delivery of data--please continue to publish "hard copies" of the economic reports for us to compare as backup. We have noticed that occasionally there are errors in Electronic Bulletin Board and Internet files--so we rely on the hard copy as backup. We use it as a safeguard. Thank you and feel free to contact me at your convenience.
- The Bureau of the Census has done a great job with it's web sites. With the exception of some unpublished data, everything is available through the internet. The unpublished data is received by direct e-mail.
- I find the Census Bureau web site very helpful in conducting market research. The current level of data available is excellent and I look forward to new additions.
- Survey of manufacturing have input from business. The categories often do not match the real world.
- In our work with furniture manufacturers and retailers we consistently need breakdowns of mrgs. shipments by product classification (ie. bedroom) on a more timely basis & retail sales at a smaller geographic level.
- 1). I cannot say that this is pressing, but I would like to see the results of the state-level retail trade series. 2). I need data files that are easily read into software such as SAS and SPSS. I also tend, when I am looking for somethin, to require as much history as I can get, because that is what is demanded of me. It would help me a great deal if all federal agencies that release dat (especially Census, BEA, and BLS) would release an actual data file (e.g. GDP.DAT rather than GDP. BEA) at the same time as the press release, much as The Federal Reserve does with its industrial production notices. More history dat on CD-ROM products, such as USA Counties would sometimes be useful as well (say 1940 or 1950 if available).
- A published paper version should always be made available for purchase to the public. Information being available on the internet is nice, yet it is a completely different animal than having a hard copy version of the information. An example: I can receive my new off the internet, but I still prefer to get my newspaper in the morning for reading at my leisure away from a computer.
- When is 1997 Census to be available? Please keep as much of the data in print as possible--
Thanks!
- Census bureau data is always helpful--the data you provide enhances our publication and enables readers to make informal business decisions.
- Thanks for asking!
- Over the past several months, I have begun to utilize the U.S. Census Bureau's web site, specifically the economic briefing room. I use this information in conjunction with the Kiplinger letter to keep up with marketing analysts. Having the information on the web makes it very easy to access. Thanks!
- The data we are interested in is housing stats, retail sales, etc. For the Jackson, Tenn., area. We compare those with previous months & years and with national averages.
- You have set up an excellent web site that is easy to use, fast and usually supplies me with the information I'm seeking.
- Thank you for your great service!
- Whenever I have used statistics & required assistance I have found the staff both friendly & efficient. I remain very impressed with your web site & service provided.
- The efforts to provide electronic format dat are a vast improvement over paper/hard copy publications. They have increased the accuracy and utility of the data sets.
- I prefer e-mail contacts rather than phone, as I am frequently not available at my phone for extended periods.

- You've done a fine job in organizing your internet site. As a librarian, a primary concern is the archiving of information. Will historical files/data/reports be kept on the net indefinitely? As you plan for net-based information, keep in mind the historical aspects as well as the current need for up-to-date economic information.
- Keep up the good work--

1). Does table 3=CPI-U?
on monthly reports?

- We serve a varied clientele (academic, business, government, and private citizens) and work across many subject. Census data are absolutely vital to us. Our biggest need is for more geographic area detail more frequently (state, county, place, if possible). Users often do not understand the 5 yr. gaps and lag time for the major Economic Surveys that offer such detail, much less the 10 yr. decennial cycle. The internet is a great help in speeding "publication", but we find access is not yet universal. We still download and print entire documents for guide reference and historical purposes. I am concerned about just how long the electronic media will remain accurate and usable as technology changes. How will the Bureau deal with these problems?
- Stat-USA is an extremely useful tool for retrieving data. I would like to see more files in spreadsheet format and the ability to download particular segments.
- Census has done a terrific job by putting so much material on the Web. Keep up the good work.
- Please contact ASAP: Bob Davidson, Gov't Information Service Section Palm Beach county Library System Service

3650 SUMMIT BLVD. 33406
(561) 233-2600, ext. 164
email Robert ID@PB.SEFLIN.ORG

- My compliments on you Web Site--easy to use; available data is amazing!
- Good job on the web site.
- Sorry for the delay--the survey didn't arrive until 8/12/98.
- Would be very interested in some information available on the Internet.
- PDF files are big and we have to retype the data for analysis. Having raw or spreadsheet/database data would save us much time. BLS's web site is a good one to study.
- State and Local Government Finance Estimates, by State. We appreciate having this information on the Internet but wish the report was still published. Is there any way of compiling the data sooner? It is almost too old to be of any use.
- Desperately need this information from NAICs. Emerging technology/company information requested everyday.
- We look forward to working with you on the upcoming Census.
- Be sure that all information is made available in the most "user-friendly" manner possible!!
- Tables which have no column headings and which one must consult separate documents are highly confusing.
- So far, the lookup approach has been not valuable to me. It has some limitations. CD's are my second favorite.
- I always use your data for the economic releases. My major concerns are: timeliness of data availability on web and being able to print the data from the web without having to reformat printing fonts. I also to the revisions when they come out, but often the location and structure of the revisions is confusing.
- Current setup on the web is extremely frustrating for someone trying to print/download data and reports

-> Make .XLS files available with lots of historical data.

___ Use .PDF files for pasting your releases -Having to flow ascii into a word processor and reformat is not the way to go. Email subscription would be helpful

- The web site is generally very helpful a lot of information-sometimes difficult to locate information wanted.
- - Census should also provide information on Agriculture sector.

- - Provide up to date GSP data for status by digit SIC.
- Provide "Green GSP" data.
- We're still waiting for an order blank so we can order the 1997 Economic Census.
- Would be helpful if classes were offered in best techniques when seeking govt. data on the Web.

Location on Web tha would state what media given U.S. Govt. was available in (papers, Internet, etc.)

- Census is always quick and dependable. Great job!
- I think the advancements on the Web over the past few years have been excellent. The Bureau of Labor Statistics has put much of this data in raw form on their FTP site. I'd like to see the Census Bureau make the FTP site more accessible and have more information.
- We are in the site selection/economic development function. Census data is absolutely crucial to our function, especially the ability to compare areas.
- I find the Census Website to be fairly difficult to use. It's hard to find information that I need. For example: I was trying to find tables on the number of Households & spent probably 45 minutes locating it.
- I work as a local government long range planner. My duties include socio-economic analysis as requested by the public, politicians and officials. The Census Bureau's Web Site is one of my key resources.
- We love the Census Bureau! Clear publications indices and ease of search engines on the Internet site are very important to us. Also, choice of how to download data is good, not all users need or can use spreadsheet software.
- Keep up the good work. I appreciate this survey.
- More documentation and instructions for obtaining data from gohper directories would be helpful.
- I appreciate the value of your service! Educators use information for social profit.
- prefer e-mail
- Keep up the good work.
- I'd like to receive a list of publications at a State Data Center is entitled to receive on the regular basis. I'd also like to get the description for the data we receive.
- Don't know if understood fully all questions, and maybe some confusion about my answers.

But look to dat from the Census Bureau as important information to not only general business, but in possible use for publication to inform, specifically, members of the hardwood lbr business.

- I only receive the data listed one page 1, but would like to begin receiving other info including: retail sales, wholesale trade manufacturing, imports, exports, industrial reports, annual statistics. Regional and national would be helpful. Press release concerning business and industry as well.
- If feasible, include columns heading names (labels) in spread sheets, as well as row labels. Not now done in monthly building permits diskettes and STF3-A CD-ROM, for example.
- Many of your monthly data crimes current, per month of 2 months ago but not year ago. I would be useful to have year ago and /or a full updated file with historical data. For example: new orders, inventories, etc.
- Good to see this survey! Dealing with you via the Internet and mail is going well. However, trying to reach people ove rthe phone is still a major headache.

Figure 1: